

Sanchez. San Domingo.

^{cont'd} Mar. 29th 1922 ✓

Dr. C. W. Richmond

Dear Sir

I got back here last week from my trip to the Barahona district in S. W. of the Republic. As regards everything but plants it was disappointing. Was there 2 months. Much or most of the time in the Bahoruco Mts. 1500 - 4,000 ft. up. [I saw nothing of the "Thrush" I saw ^{to the westward} in the same range in Hayti 2 years ago.] But [have got a pair of the solitaire. Am not sure they are the same Cory got above Jacmel 40 years ago. & they don't look quite like those collected in the Central Cor on the hills about Sillera. They were very common above 3000 feet, ~~above~~ Polo, but as the males were not singing on our arrival there we could get none at first - luckily just before our departure from Polo, they commenced to sing & I got a pair -] & badly shot.

Saw or heard nothing else of much account in the hills. ^{11 miles} from Barahona at Cabral is a large lake Rincon, of fresh water - surrounded by vast red d'ods & marshes ^(thousands of acres) - by far the largest place of the sort in the island. I had hoped for some kind of red or grass sparrow, bunting, warbler or something or other. Nothing of the kind could be found - [Plenty of Maryland Yellowthroats] & other warblers, ^{but} no small rails were seen. [The Sora rail were plentiful], [Florida Jacks Martinique gulls, coots & Jacanas were plentiful.] only ducks were

Bahama pintails & lesser Blackheads. Flamingoes & spoonbills occur
& many black ibises^①. [However I flushed a short eared owl & got
that. only one seen.] also [saw a marsh hawk twice, but not
within range.] Both these species are new to the island.
Down at Trujin, 43 miles south of Barahona is a large salt lagoon,
which I heard was a great resort of birds, but there were not many
when we were there in March. [I had the misfortune to kill 3 ♀
flamingoes at one shot, I did not want but one, however I
skinned them all & they "kept" very well.] also saw a flock of spoon-
bills, but always out of range. Both species are said to breed there
at south end of lagoon.] It was a bristly arid region - only drinkable water
other salty, came from ^{one} cave, & we bathed in another cave when the
water was still saltier(?) only saw one nightjar the whole trip &
heard none. Did not get to Beata Id. as it was too late to then in
boat - Think November wd. be best for Beata.

Am going next week to San Francisco Macoris in the Eastern Cibao,
near foot of northern range. It is about 40 miles from here by R.R.
& I will take mules from there to the Quita Espada, the highest Mt.
in the northern ^{range of} mts. It is 3,500 ft. about - That district is said to be
the best place to find Don Juans (Myiobius) - So let us hope it may
pan out something good. Anyhow the top of the mountain is sure to
have good plants & nobody has ever been there. The results of Barahona
^{84 cases} ~~the trip~~ went get shipped for about 2 weeks, as it will be some time
before they can arrive in Washington. Expect to stay down until June.
Hoping you are well Yours very truly W. L. Abbott.

A.W.

400 South 15th St Philadelphia.

June 2^d 1921

Dear Richmond

Your letter informing me of the arrival of the cures came this a.m. am glad to know what that nightjar seems to be. Anyhow it is not *Siphonaria* altho its nostrils looked tubular to me.

I forgot about the 2 grasshopper sparrows - They were for Acad. of Nat. Sciences - If you could send them on then, I will be much obliged. There is a pretty good series of them besides.

✓ The *Longicorn* came from the Eastern States in January.

I expect to sail for Norway June 17th & be absent until September - when I hope to return & go back to San Domingo.

I may come down to Washington next week about Wednesday or Thursday - Hope to see you there -

Yours very truly

W. L. Abbott

(P.S. You will notice that the *Oediceramus* is larger than the ones originally described - These were probably ♀ -

Sanchez. S.D. Mar. 12 - 1921

Card 1

✓

Dear Doctor

I suppose you are waiting to hear of the great discovery of this trip. Well don't expect too much. Have only a few skins so far - 30 or so - but they are pretty good ones -

Got back here from 2 months up in the Cibao country.

[I completely failed to find Calyptophilus near Almacén, where Frazar discovered it in 1883. We did see one above Cotuí, but failed to get it.]

[Can only find 2 birds peculiar to the Savanna region - The Savannah Sparrow, of which I got a good series - it is very common, & the "Boukera" (Ordicomenus dom.) which is not scarce. I shot 4

& saw a good many - But put off getting more until I get beyond Santiago - where I never saw it.]

[In the arid region, saw but few birds - nothing new - Lawrenceia nana occurs -] and [I shot a goatsucker ^(11-12 inches long) which may be nothing but a Chuck will's widow - but it appears to my defective vision to have tubular nostrils. First I thought I had Microsiphonurus (Beck's bird).

but his is much smaller wing 139 mm, ^{mine} ~~size~~ is 170 mm (wing)

& there are no lateral filaments to the strong rectal bristles, as I believe Chuck wills has - It was sitting on branch near ground in dense jungle near Mao - in the arid region - My boy John King spotted it.

I think there were a pair, but I never saw the other after I shot.

The tubular nostrils are not what I expected, seem up on end - & small.

Still unless a Chuck wills has something of that sort it must be representative of Siphornis of Jamaica. [Don't expect too much until you see it, as I am too blind to see distinctly.]

I am keeping birdskins & dried plants until I come up myself in a couple of months - (stiff tailed duck)

[Have seen ^a Nomonyx down - It flew all around me when without a gun one morning. Could not find it again] (7 miles from camp)

[A week ago today, was on hill above Navarrete near Santiago, & a good many big swifts were flying slow & low over the ridge, but I had no gun - never had such a chance at them ^{before} - Slopes were probably cleared of brush - next morning I went back with gun, but there were no swifts -]

Sent a box of living cacti up to Dr. Rose by steamer yesterday - but holding most of stuff back. It is raining in torrents every day - especially mornings - has done so ever since I came down in November, except while I was in the dry zone.

[A guardia officer told me of a queer ground dove he met with on North coast ^{west} East of Cape Isabel - Can't form any idea what it was. Seemed a little like Beck's new pigeon.]

Am going to Samana tomorrow & go out into the small and distant near Cape Samana, have never investigated it thoroughly -

Flowers are absolutely non-existent hereabouts - only an ultra luxuriance of green leaves -

Hope you keep well -

Yours very truly

W. L. Abbott

P.S. [Don't expect too much of that old night hawk until you see it - The Dominican name is "Pitangua" - (Pee táng wah)]

also Dominican name of Dulus dominicensis is "Sigua" (Seegwa) Seegwa
2^d P.S. Have got something rather good for Hough's depth not "Sigura"

Port au Prince - Hayti. ^{carded}

Dear Doctor Richmond May 19th 1920

We are back here & have 4 cases ready for ship ment tomorrow - They went off for several days however - 3 cases botanical specimens & one case birds - I have more birds including gonorr collection here, not ready for ship ment - This box which is going up this time has no plants in it only birds & skeletons it is #4.

[It contains the Great Ornithological discovery of the trip - a new wren bird - This explains Bartels's gonorr ovis which he did not see. Keep discovery quiet until you get specimens & get it described if new - Nests also sent.

Too early for eggs. The bird lives in colonies on thorn trees in plains of the Cul de Sac - Saw only one large colony - but several old ones. The ♂ is 175 mm. long - ♀ 155. ♂ head black, neck brown mixed with black on wings & shoulders. Greenish yellow above, yellow beneath interlaced with reddish (marginal) sides. I see vermillion.] [on one occasion]

I saw a new thrush at 4000 ft. - no gun - size of robin, black head - yellow bill - deep brown sides, white belly ascending to a point on breast. Returned 3 times to same place with a gun - but saw no trace of stranger - Evidently this southern peninsula of Hayti or San Don. has some green new stuff] - [Heard lots of Mycterus but saw none.]

We remain until last of June when I will bring up rest of birds - Leonard has worked very hard & has a big collection of

2) plants - [It was he who first saw the new wren bird which
please name after him if it ~~proves~~ new.] I can tell
you a lot more about it & its habits. What is it? Is it an
African ^{immigrant} ~~introduction~~? You will see ~~it~~ through the my story -
Am sorry I can't get all the birds into this ship ment, but
the others will keep - The cases will be shipped by Panama
R.R. Steamship line in a week or so -

Hope you are keeping fit - we can both well - I lost my
gun - ~~left~~ forgot it in rail road train, but I have another
in reserve so it is no matter -

Yours very truly

W. L. Abbott

P.S. Keep mean about that ^{wren} bird - It is too easy accessible
from Port au Prince to take any chance of another fellow
getting it & destroying it - Also when I describe do not mention place where
found - Just say Antenna Hayti - I do not want the
colonies wiped out by bird collectors, which could easily be done -
Don't tell anybody the type locality - cut off the collector

St. Marc. Hayti. ^{March} Mar 23^d 1920

Dear Richmond

Open of Mar. 10th was anxious our return from Gonave Island yesterday. glad when the films were sent down, they are doubtless awaiting our return to Port au Prince. It is not easy to develop photos. here. In Gonave Island ^{fresh} water was very scarce & far away. & local photographers seem nonexistent here, though plentiful in San Domingo. I have not added much to the avifauna of Gonave Island. [Shot a ♀ yellow bellied woodpecker. Beautifully fed, & badly shot, it made a poor specimen. It was 213^{mm.} long, & has a large black spot on breast. no other seen or heard.] Apparently Gonave was once covered with magnificent forest. Now totally destroyed in the fertile uplands - which are now open grass land. A small scrap of "forest" exists at Grand Source, or rather did, for it was mostly cut down in last few weeks.

[The Haytian clipper rail has materialized, & [the yellow warbler is plentiful] - did not see a single calyptophilus, & [no parrots ^{seen}] Leonard has done pretty well on the plants.

Saw nothing of Lulus melalis - scarcely any palms are left, maybe bird has ceased to exist. But did not at all see anything like all the island - It is a big place.

2) We are now going up the hills above St. More, a few hours
distant for 10 days or so, before returning to Port au Prince.
Have no expectations in the bird line at this ~~best~~ place.
fit about 100 ^{birds.} skins at Gonave & think I never want to
return there - Tho' Leonard thought it the nicest place
he ever saw. It was his first camp - & there are no white
men there to damn the place. But it is not a nice place.
It is excessively dry here - Not much rain for 3 years.
but main trouble this port trip, was the Drunken cook etc.
in our party. One can't do much without proper servants.
We won't ship anything home until we return to Port
au Prince - 2 - 3 weeks hence.

Hope you keep well -

Yours very truly

W. L. Abbott

Q.W.

400 South 15th St. Philadelphia.

Nov. 2^d 1919

Dear Richmond

Yours of 31st Oct. received.

The tin of insects which came in last consignment were collected near Samana in last spring. at any rate Samana Peninsula somewhere - That is not a large area.

I am feeling so well that I am awfully sorry that I came back without doing the Barahona District. Especially as I had abundant supplies of collecting stuff etc. I had a lot of trouble getting my gun & cartridges into San Domingo. The mil. authorities held them up 8 days. & if I had not applied to Mr. Russell (American Minister) - they would be holding them still, altho they (mil. authorities) knew I was from Smithsonian.

They are damned fools. Anyhow the "Caballeros" (Bandits?) get ammunition some how & our own countrymen are suspected. as a matter of fact I threw 500 cartridges into the ^{deep water} sea when I left as I did not want them used in destroying bird life.

Yours very truly

W. L. Abbott

Sanchez. ^{Cardel.} San Domingo.

✓
Sep. 2^d 1919

Dear Richmond

I deliver 2 boxes to agents of ^{Chy 12} S.S. Co.
today addressed to Museum & to be sent by earliest avail-
able steamer ^{to New York.} - That will be about 10 - 12 days hence.

It is a poor lot of stuff - I went first to Sosua
17 miles East of Puerto Plata & staid there 10 days with Morris

Peters, the uncle of the young man who collected there 3 years ago.

The ^{neighboring} country was open grass land & sugar cane, abandoned banana
cultivation - The place still belongs to United Fruit Co.

[Limpkins (*Aramus pictus*) were very common & I shot a number.
(possibly ♀♀ also)]

The ♂♂ have a queer conformation of the trachea - convolutions like
a crane - they have a very loud call. Ku-rāw, Ku-rāw,

whence their Dominican name. Sent several dry preps. of trachea,

& one wet - I would have sent whole bird in rum, but had
no container & no rum.]

[^{numida} ~~Guinea~~-fowl were very plentiful] Birds generally ^{were} scarce & the
probably all former forest land, in spite of the large stretches of grass land now existing. Peters
Savanna sparrow was wanting. The man who accompanied Peters
said it occurred near Cape Cabrera.

There is a large lagoon west of Sosua, but we did not succeed in
reaching it - jungle has grown up thick - Birds are said to be scarce
upon lagoon. Iguanas said to occur.

2/ [at Sosua, called up a Lawrence's nana close to me, but had no
gun at time. in thick scrub saw none afterwards there.
Have since shot one near ^{'Port Rincon} ~~Cape Cabran~~ on North coast Samana penin-
sula - a miserable little bird in poor pinfeather plumage.

It was also in thick jungle & we saw no others, so they can't be
common.] [I find Spindalis multicolor is not uncommon ~~on~~
the Pilon d'agucar, & North of Samana peninsula.]
altogether here but few birds for you so far. [Picumnus lawrencei
is very common here but, but very hard to see. There is a good series]

Expect to leave in 5 days for La Romana on South coast
of San Domingo, & visit Catalina & Saona Islands. afterwards
probably Lake Enriquillo & possibly Beata Island. My Samana ^{boy}
John King goes with me - & I have plenty of supplies with me.
~~The~~ Saona is said to be very nice & fresh water lafon & lots of
birds, also mosquitoes.

There are no plants or plant material in these boxes.
#2 box is full of pottery packed in newspaper & excelsior (shaving)
from the U.S.A. Both boxes are sewn up in gunny bags,
(Cacao sacks) as they were only kerosene boxes & rather weak.
Hope there will be no trouble about entrance of these things.
Am rather anticipating Saona, especially the water birds. I notice
^{migrant} the waters are beginning to arrive along the shore here.
Yours Truly W. L. Abbott.

Porto Plata. San Domingo. ✓

Dear Richmond

July 18th 1919

Yours of July 8th reached me on board
of "Iroquois" at time of sailing. [About the egg of ^{Tyto} "Tyto glaucops" I am not at all sure, it may be a parrot's egg.

John King brought it to me saying he had got it out of a
hollow tree - he had seen the owl fly out of this hollow & he
cut the tree down. But the egg was rotten when I got it a week
afterwards. It might well have been a parrot's egg as they

nest in similar places. The "Vireo's" eggs were brought to me,
& the nest looked like a Vireo's - But I am not at all sure
the eggs belonged in that nest. I really do not trust what
any native says about eggs or any thing else, & too much
reliance should not be put in any of my identifications
unless I ^{myself get} ~~have~~ the parent bird.

My gun & cartridges are held up here by the military, but I will
Santillero get them in a day or two. I have a ~~span~~ gun & more
cartridges at Sanchez. Am going out to Sosua, 16 miles east,
tomorrow. Peters collected there 3 years ago. There is a lagoon
of fresh water there & I am hoping for water birds.

Will probably go on to Sanchez by rail in a couple of weeks &
will most likely go to Jovero, on South side Samana Bay & back

2/ for water birds in a large (brack water?) lagoon here.

It has a bad reputation for mosquitoes - & Saona & Catalina islands, which I hope to visit later are said to be simply unbearable, but are said to abound with bird life -

"He who lives will learn?" -

Things are reported to be in a very disturbed state over in Hayti, but it is impossible to get at the real state of affairs, & it probably won't affect my collecting work any how.

Hope Rawn got his outfit together in time & has made a good start. Weather is beautiful down here, & I am awfully glad to be down in the Tropics again. Three weeks in the big Eastern cities is long enough for me, & I'd much prefer -

will be very careful in future about transmitting any vegetable material, you may be sure.

Yours very Truly

W. L. Abbott

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July 8th 1919

Dear Richmond

Your letter announcing
the arrival of the boxes came several days
since - Am sorry there was a delay of a
time getting them. Of course I knew nothing
about the new plant regulations, & then I
thought it only applied to live plants.
If this ruling applies to all vegetable
products the law will be unworkable, for
all coffee, cocoa, coco nuts, beans, etc.
etc words will have to be paraphrased.

all the 2000 are having trouble over the
law forbidding introduction of hoofed animals
& quarantine is prohibited. & the
only country from which we can get

Y seen to the Green Britain & Cape Colony.
~~the~~ The steamer is expected to sail to-
morrow aft. One has to show tax re-
ceipt before being allowed to leave, & if an
alien, must pay tax on his income
for this past half year. A high ^{string} ~~amount~~
of Dagos etc., were lined up at the Customs
house this a.m. American citizens were
let through quickly however.

This prohibition business is going to in-
crease foreign trade, that is it will as
soon as normal conditions return, if that
is in ~~the~~ our day. San Domingos will replenish
a popular resort, as there are no hotels
worth speaking of, & the Clyde Steamers are
rotten bad - It will bring Cuba however.

Yours very truly,

W. L. Abbott

P.S. I will take jolly good care in future not
to mix plants with birds & eggs.

400 South 15th St. Philadelphia.

July 4th 19.

Dear Richmond

The ~~permit~~ for guns etc. came all right - Thanks for getting it for me. The steamer is expected to sail Wednesday night. (July 9th) - Hope the boxes have turned up O.K. If they arrive before my departure, drop me a line what you think of the contents. I am going to New York early Tuesday, but anything addressed to me ^{per ~~steamer~~ Iroquois} S.S. Iroquois can Clyde Sand Domingo Line pier 34. Brooklyn N.Y.

also add Please forward to Sanchez. S.D. if steamer has sailed.

will reach me up to time of sailing.

We are surely getting it hot. quite like S.D. in summer, but minus the sea breeze & cool nights of the West Indies. Your suggestions re night jars are most interesting. Can a cane gun be got? or are things still too abnormal?

Yours very truly

W. L. Abbott

P.S. My address will be Sanchez. S.D.

✓
400 South 15th St. Philadelphia.

July 1st 19.

Dear Richmond

That permit has not turned
up yet. As a result I shall miss the steamer
which sails on the 9th

That means a loss of 2 weeks ^{permit} collecting -

Please tell them I send it his address

& not of Alpine Hotel.

Am enclosing 2 letters for Kloss, please
pass them on to Miller - They need not
be returned to me

Yours Truly

W. L. Abbott



OTTO E. HANSEN

ALDINE HOTEL

CHESTNUT AND NINETEENTH STREETS

PHILADELPHIA

June 19th 19.

Dear Richmond

Your letter re passport

just received - The passport business is O.K.

The old one having just been returned to
me renewed for 6 months -

Hope the boxes will arrive soon before the orchids are
all dead - There was one gorgeous ~~one~~ species.

The paper by Kloss & Robinson on the birds of
Samatra is quite an elaborate affair. Tho
they did not get much that was entirely new.

(My steamer (Progneis) is expected to sail
July 9th & I am very anxious to get back
S.D. is better than this -

Yours truly

W. L. Abbott

Aldine Hotel,

Philadelphia,

June 14th 1919.

Dear Richmond

I landed today at Brooklyn & turned 4 cases of specimens (kerosene boxes) over to the Customs on the pier for shipment to Museum. They were taken to Warehouses corded & sealed. One box had got broken on voyage but think nothing was lost.

Please communicate with proper authorities as soon as possible for the cases to be transhipped to Washington. There are some epiphytes in one case (orchids and tillandsias) still living--as they are from high elevations they may prove interesting. Am enclosing herewith some notes on birds of S.D. Am writing to Dept. of State to get my passport renewed. I want to go back to S.D. in less than 3 weeks. It might help to get your corresp. dept. jog the dept. of State on the subject. Also I want to take some more ammunition down to San Domingo with me. I will need ~~my~~ permit from State (or War Dept.) (same as before)

to take 500 12 bore shot cartridges

500 320 bore shot cartridges for aux.

one 12 bore shot gun

one aux. barrel

You will find many things to please you in this last lot--but nothing new.

I got one *Microligea palustris* & one pair of *Oreopelagia leucometopon*.

Will come down to Washington after the 4 boxes arrive--about June 17th or 18th.

Hope you keep fit.

Yours very truly

(Signed) W. L. Abbott.

P.S. I am just wild to get back to S.D. and do the islands on s. coast and the lakes & Mt. de Selle region.

carded

Constanza. San Domingo. May 11th 1919. ✓

Dear Doctor

Yours of Mar. 8th re the proposed New

Guinea collecting reached me several weeks since. I don't think I care about doing anything in the matter. Everything is so unsettled & uncertain & the income taxes damnable, if necessary, so I don't want to commit myself to additional expenses until I know just where I stand in the world.

This trip has turned out next door to failure. No mammals & no new birds - Could not find any of Beck's 3 birds except the ground dove, of which I got a pair. They were very scarce where I was, & ^{are} not common here. [I ^{have} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} a good many of the big swift & missed some shots at them. Saw a lot this A.M. - too high.] No crossbill so far. Return to El Rio tomorrow where I first found them 3 years since. Expect to return to New York next month.

The climate & country are perfectly beautiful - strangely like Kashmir on the S. side of the divide. of course no snow here -

Hope the 3 boxes shipped early in April have long since arrived.

Best wishes

Yours Truly

W. L. Abbott.

P.S. [I saw & heard several nightjars over in the Rio Grande Valley, including Nyctibius but got none]. However have got a few odd birds & birds.

A.W. 400 South 15th St. Philadelphia. ✓

Dear Doctor

May 3^d 1918

I landed yesterday from Hayti. Was a month in Marine Hospital at Port au Prince with amoebic dysentery & very nearly crooked.

Am still bothered with diarrhea, but picking up slowly.

I shipped 2 cases from St. Marc, Hayti, by Panama S.S. Line just before going into hospital - addressed to Collector Port of N.Y. & while I was in hospital the 3 boxes I left at Jérémie were sent to Port au Prince & then ~~shipped~~^{sent} by collector there on to St. Marc, & they were shipped on Panama S.S. to N.Y. that would be about one month ago.

Hope the 5 cases have reached you ere this. If they have not they must be in N.Y. somewhere - as they were addressed in care of Collector of Port.

I hear that the Grand Saline near Jérémie is a very good place for water birds - ^{lots} Flamingos etc. The collector there, a Louisiana man, said the scenery was ^{so} many ducks. Evidently the restriction of arms by the Americans is making the birds increase - hope the birds on Gonave Island will present something new. There is more to be done there.

Hoping you are well
Yours very truly
W. L. Abbott
P.S. what is that white faced duck from Cayenne?

Sanchez, San Domingo.

April 1st 1919

Dear Richmond

I am leaving 4 boxes (kerosene cases) of specimens here to be shipped to New York by the first available steamer--Probably the "Huron" in about 10 daytime. [The eggs of the "Sigüya" (Dulus dominicensis) are there at last. one occupied nest with 4 eggs (spotted) & 5 (not yet used) nests were in a community house 25 feet from ground in a royal palm.] [Also 2 eggs of Geotrygon montana (ruddy grd. dove) which proves not to nest on the ground at all, but on a bunch of "wild pineapple" (Tillandsia) 6-8 feet from ground on the trunk of a good sized tree. Saw several nests all in same situation-- This is a good discovery as the habit may serve to preserve the bird from extermination by the rapidly spreading mongoose.] Am hoping to leave for the interior on the 3d. Two Samaná boys go with me as I don't speak Spanish--One, John King, was up with me to Constanza 2 1/2 years ago & is glad to go again, as he has a nagging wife who is making his home hot for him--she is an ugly cross grained bitch, half Indian, half Spanish--Hope to put in 2 months in the mountains, will probably make Constanza my headquarters & radiate out. Will try to do the highest possible levels & ought to find a good many new nesting species at this season.

[Am sending a pair of frigates & some eggs. They are nesting on Pelican Island, south shore of Samana Bay]--Pelicans are not nesting yet. [Saw one booby on the mid channel buoy, but did not have gun available.] But so far have not done much. Lots of species like C. inornata & squamosa are nesting, but can't find the nests. Corvus leucognathus is preparing (I think) but not yet nesting--They & [the little parrot Aratinga used to be very common here at Sanchez, both are now unknown here. Old men tell me that when they were boys, they had to watch the maize fields here in Samana with a gun against the vast flocks of Aratinga--They are now absent from this section tho still common in the interior. The Doctor here tells me he saw them last week on N. E. coast near Matanzas.] The common parrot (Anazona) is still common as it does not depredate on the maize fields.

[The yellow-billed cuckoo has been fairly common during the last few weeks]--There is not much for Miller except 2 kinds of bats, & a few

more bones & teeth of the elusive Plagiodontia--which many people ~~assu~~
assure me is still common (or rare) on the south shores of Samana
Bay, near Savanna la Mar & Jovéro--

Hoping you are well & that this lot of stuff will arrive all
right

Yours very Truly

W. L. Abbott

P.S. Dr. Vaughan (geologist) is passing today on the "Huron". He
is going to S. Domingo City.

Q.W.
Feb. 14th 1918

Jeremie, Hayti.

Dear Richmond:

I wrote you yesterday saying I hoped to get off the 3 cases of specimens by the "Prins der Nederlands", but the Captain positively refused to take any thing whatever from Hayti. So I am leaving the cases behind at the Custom house here to send at earliest opportunity, that may be 2 weeks or 3 months. The Collector, Mr. Robin, says he will get them off when he can. He is American. I cant take the cases with me to Port au Prince. I have only a small open sail boat, already full of my luggage & gear. It rains frequently & everything will get soaking wet, & the voyage of 120 miles to windward, will take 2 or 3 weeks, including stop in Gonave Island. Probably a most wretched & miserable trip. I wish it was over. So it seems best to take chances (very uncertain) of the cases going from here. There are no steamers calling here on north bound voyage. But some shipments for N. Y. are made on southward (outward) voyage. Anyhow cant do any better. The trouble is the Collector & the other chaps will probably forget all about it. The agent here will not take delivery for shipment, as I have always done elsewhere. So the Collector in N. Y. had better be notified to be ready to receive the cases whatever vessel they may come by.

The 3 cases are marked as usual

U.S. National Museum

Care Collector Port of New York

Like everywhere else everything is completely upset & disorganized owing to the war.

Hope everything will eventually turn up.

Yours truly

(Signed) W. L. Abbott.

Orig. filed with

acc. papers.

Barred notes
attached

✓

Jérémie, Hayti. Feb. 12th 1918

Dear Richmond:

I expect to leave here for Port au Prince on the 14th by small sail boat & touch at Gonave Island en route. Ought to be 2 or 3 weeks on the way as the wind is usually ahead. I am leaving 3 cases to be shipped to the Museum by first available steamer. One may be here in a few days bound south, but few vessels touch here on north bound voyage. I don't wish to risk taking the specimens in small boat with me. There are abt. 200 skins & some skeletons belonging to abt. 55 species. Nothing new or much good. 2 skeletons (both ♂) of pelicans. I can't get ♀ somehow or other. [The last attempt to reach mts. of La Hotte ended in failure. I did not reach over 3,000²⁰⁰ feet. A most lovely district called Moline. Coffee right to the summits. One of my boys got sick, & I sent him back to Jérémie where he died a few days after. The other boy got fever pretty bad. I also had some fever.

I found no hill birds except *Ricordia swainsoni* & *Todus angustirostris*. *Myiadestes* is not singing now & it was impossible to find it. Everybody in the hills knew it under name "La musician." Heard many "Chat huant" in dense broken jungle country in the 4^{en} section. Too dense to see anything. Don't know if it was *Nyctibius* or *Microsiphonorhis*. It was lovely up in the hills only for the fever. I find the right way to reach La Hotte is to march 9 miles east of Jérémie to Rossau, then up the river of Rossau to the quartier called "Catineau." This includes the north slope of La Hotte. I doubt if La Hotte is much over 5,000. I was on the hill above Moline at 3,000 (or a little more) & it was 8 miles across intervening valley "Catineau" to La Hotte. Certainly it was not 2,000 feet higher. It seems to be covered with pines. Some pine forest at Moline. It wd. be best to visit the high lands in June (Summer) when "La Musician" is singing.

I had a very pleasant camp at Moline at 2000 feet, by a clear cold river, opposite the little R.C. church. Plenty to eat, chickens, eggs, sweet potatoes, yams, milk etc. & everybody most friendly.] Am now living in hopes of Gonave Island. Cant find any body who has ever been there. It is very dry (few springs of fresh water)--soil very fertile & much good Guaiac (*Lignum vitae*).

Hope these 3 cases will eventually reach you via New York all

right. It is not exactly a rotten lot, there is a little good stuff in it. The Agouti did not materialize. I cant find any body who has ever actually seen the animal.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) W. L. Abbott.

P.S. Think I shall be coming home in March, so dont write any more here unless you hear from me. Address 400 South 15th St. Philadelphia. Feb. 13th. The Dutch S.S. "Prince Van der Nederlands" is due here this afternoon, but will not take any cargo. I am going off to see Capt. or Purser & see if they wont take the 3 cases.

*Orig. filed with
acc. papers*

a.w.

✓



ALDINE HOTEL

CHESTNUT AND NINETEENTH STREETS

PHILADELPHIA

OTTO E. HANSEN

Sep. 2^d 1917

Dear Doctor

News of July 13th & 18th

Reached me 2 days ago. Having been returned from Hayti. I returned to this country 4 weeks ago. Was not in good shape, my prostate was troublesome with occasional untoward haemorrhages - so I had to come back. It is an enlarged middle lobe, which though small is troublesome as it directly projects into the urethra. Nothing else was visible by the cystoscope. so the mid. lobe was cauterized with elect. cauterizing. & I am now better. An announcement came yesterday that the 2 cases shipped July 3^d had arrived. Was much interested in the act. of Beck's new bird - He got into the southern mountains where I wanted to go the past June - But could not owing to the war.

2/ It is about impossible for me to do any
nat. hist. work until the war is over, except
as a side show - I would have done the
Ithaca peninsula (the S.W. of Hayti) the
last 3 months - had the war not come -
The fauna is different there as we already know,
completely cut off from the rest of the island
by the "Plaine" ~~de~~ cul de sac at Port au Prince,
& the chain of lakes -
about the "yellow water" - I shot a pair in
mangroves at Port à l'Écu not long before
leaving - They may be in the last shipment, or
they may have got lost.

I am going up into the hills of Pennsylvanian
this week, looking for "a home", which means
a couple of thousand acres of wild land.

There will be nothing to go "somewhere" -
which may mean Hayti or S. America -
of course (Yours Truly is out of Military
service & probably medical service too -

Will you be in Washington next week
(Sep 9th - 16th)? I may run down for the

3/ day - ^{will} ~~the~~ Miller be there too?

I am very much ashamed of the poor results of the mammals - But one can't get what does not exist.

The shell traps panned out nothing at all. Sorry that I did not get more Accipiter striatus - Colled up a nice pair, only a day or two before I left. Unfortunately had no gun - There don't seem to be any Buzco there in summer at least in lowland.

Don't believe a Macaw exists - No one has ever seen it, & it is such a conspicuous ^{new} bird - There are a number more birds however - Not in the N.W. however. In the S.W. undoubtedly, waiting for somebody. Hope you are well

Yours very truly

W. L. Abbott



OTTO E. HANSEN

ALDINE HOTEL

CHESTNUT AND NINETEENTH STREETS

PHILADELPHIA

COPY.

Jarabacoa: San Domingo.

Oct. 13, 1916.

Dear Richmond:-

Was glad to get your letter about Raven's stuff. He did not seem to get anything new however. I am returning from the highlands of San Domingo and my beautiful country it is. Knot pine forests covering the mountains. Splendid climate. Have got at least two new? birds. One (one specimen) a large blackish owl (440 mm. long) with small head and long ear tufts., and [a white winged cross-bill. This last (one pair only) is doubtless common though I actually saw no others. I had heard of a very small "parrot" which lived in flocks in the pines on the pine cones. I suspected a crossbill--said to occur about here at Jarabacoa, below 2,000 feet, but the pair I shot were at near 5,000 feet.] Have not got the Myiodes, though we often heard them. Am going on back to Sanchez in a few days, and expect to take steamer for New York in about three weeks or less. Will bring specimens back with me. Mammals have been a failure. Neither the "Juvon" Solenodon, nor the "Hutia" Plagiodontia, are anything like extinct, but I never had the luck to get any or has any one caught any for me. They seem generally distributed and the mongoose does not seem to destroy them (nor rats either)--a few bats and introduced rats are all I have got. Am getting some Indian stuff, fragmentary pottery, stone tomahawks etc. Hope the first stuff I sent you a month ago has arrived all right.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) W. L. Abbott.